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tions at their maximum, is a subject for amazement to travelers and physicians. There, again, as in Egypt, salubrity may be attributed to the presence of lime. The geological formations of these islands present a striking analogy; their shores are composed of coral reefs or deposits, that is to say, of lime, with which the coast marshes everywhere come in contact. It is undoubtedly to the action of lime and not to the hypothetical infiltration of sea water, as claimed by some writers, that the innocuousness of the salt marshes is to be attributed.

Many other analogous facts might be cited. In 1898 I pointed out the close relation existing in Algeria between malaria and the chemical and geological constitution of the surface soil. The germ of malarial disease has undoubtedly a telluric origin. It shows a marked preference for certain soil; it separates itself from the superficial strata, and in my observation we may forecast the salubrity of any region as regards malaria, from a knowledge solely of the nature and composition of the superficial soil.

With regard to the quantity of lime to be used it has been found that on the plateau of Chatillon 27,000 kilograms of lime to the acre sufficed for agricultural needs and for the elimination of malaria. It is to be observed that these benefits are not transitory. After seventy years' use they retain their full virtue from the cultural as well as the malarial point of view. The quantity of lime to be used should be regulated by local conditions and the proportion already present in the soil.

In conclusion I would request the academy of medicine to institute an inquiry with regard to the three following propositions:

(1) The immunity more or less complete, as regards malaria of those countries, the soil of which contains naturally in its superficial layers a strong proportion of lime, and which has mud, ooze, and slime rich in calcareous deposit.

(2) The freedom from malaria of the banks of rivers, streams and brooks flowing in calcareous basins.

(3) The relative immunity in malarious regions obtained by the addition of compost and fertilizers, chiefly lime, incorporated with the superficial strata of the soil.

NOTE.—The results of analyses made by Müntz of water taken at Cairo, September 6, 1888, from the middle of the Great Nile and at a depth of 0.60 meters, the level of the stream being 5 meters above low-water mark, are as follows:

	In solu- tion.	In sus- pension.
	<i>Gramme.</i>	<i>Gramme.</i>
Azote in a state of nitrate.....	1.07	3.00
Phosphoric acid.....	0.40	4.10
Potash.....	3.66	150.00
Lime.....	48.00	70.50

Nile mud is formed essentially of the hydrated silicates of aluminum, iron, and potassium, composing a mixture of lime and organic matter.

BELGIUM.

Report from Antwerp.

ANTWERP, BELGIUM, *April 2, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith weekly abstract of bills of health issued at Antwerp, Belgium, during the week ended March

May 11, 1900

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31, 1900. The steamship *Westernland* sailing from New York on the 31st ultimo carried 1,087 steerage passengers, the largest number taken by any steamer from this port in seven years.

Respectfully,

E. K. SPRAGUE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRAZIL.

Vessels inspected at Santos.

SANTOS, BRAZIL, *February 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have inspected the following-named vessels during the week ended February 25, 1900: Steamship *Bellarden*, Alex. Davison, master; crew, 31; no passengers; for New York via Rio de Janeiro; left Santos February 21. Steamship *Roman Prince*, A. McMillan, master; crew, 25, and 2 passengers—27 all told, for New York via Rio de Janeiro; left Santos February 22.

Respectfully,

WM. H. CARSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SANTOS, BRAZIL, *March 12, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have inspected the following-named vessels during the week ended March 11, 1900: Steamship *Ragusa*, G. Siemers, master; crew, 30; no passengers; for New York via Rio de Janeiro and Bahia; left Santos March 8. Steamship *Parahyba*, F. Conen, master; crew, 38; no passengers; for New Orleans via Rio de Janeiro; left Santos, March 10.

Respectfully,

WM. H. CARSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SANTOS, BRAZIL, *March 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have inspected the following-named vessels during the week ended March 18, 1900: Steamship *Ballaura*, W. G. Wald, master; crew, 28; no passengers; left Santos, March 14, for New York via Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco.

Respectfully,

WM. H. CARSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SANTOS, BRAZIL, *March 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have inspected the following-named vessels during the week ended March 25, 1900: Steamship *Kaffir Prince*, Smythe, master; crew, 25; no passengers; left Santos March 20 for New York via Rio de Janeiro. Steamship *Capri*, O. Ebert, master; crew, 31; no passengers; left Santos March 24 for New York via Rio de Janeiro and Bahia.

Respectfully,

WM. H. CARSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.